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Sanctuary Advisory Council
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
99 Pacific Street, Building 455E
Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 647-4201

Ms. Kelly Hammerle, Manager
National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (VAM-LD)
45600 Woodland Road
Sterling, VA 20166-9216

RE: Draft Proposed Five-Year Outer Continental Shelf Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2019 through 2024, proposed by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management as referenced in Federal Registry Volume 83, Number 5 (Monday, January 8, 2018) Notices, pages 829-834, FR Doc No: 2018-00083.

Dear Ms. Hammerle:

On behalf of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, I am writing in response to the call for comments on the Draft Proposal. We strongly oppose off shore oil development because it would irreparably harm the resource protections that we have in place, our coastal economy, and places our planet in further jeopardy.

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council brings together stakeholders representing Agriculture, At-Large Community members, Business/Industry, Conservation, Diving, Education, Recreation, Commercial and Recreational Fishing, Research and Tourism, plus seven local and state governmental jurisdictions. The Council is committed to supporting Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and promoting the mission of the National Marine Sanctuary Program to identify, protect, conserve and enhance the natural and cultural resources, values, and qualities of the National Marine Sanctuary System for this and future generations.

The MBNMS Advisory Council opposes the inclusion of any portion of the Pacific Coast Outer Continental Shelf Planning Areas in BOEM's Draft Proposed Five-Year Outer Continental Shelf Leasing Program because the proposed offshore drilling plan threatens several National Marine Sanctuaries and the entire California coastal economy. Our healthy ecosystems, fisheries, agriculture, tourism and a myriad of industries and communities depend on a clean coast.

We also request additional public comment opportunities and hearings for coastal community input given that the existing opportunities are inadequate.

Sincerely,



Margaret (P.J.) Webb
Chair, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council



The Advisory Council is composed of 20 federally appointed representatives from government agencies, local institutions, and user groups concerned with the resources of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The Council advises the Sanctuary Superintendent on matters of policy and provides a link between the community and Sanctuary